(*c*) whether they are undertaking any research works from their own funds; if so, what they are; what the estimated cost of each is; and how long each of them is to go on?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has recently sanctioned a grant for the investigation of the root disease of the cocoanut palm.

(*b*) As the grant was sanctioned only recently, work has yet to be started.

(*c*) In the Agricultural Research Laboratory and in the Experimental Farms under the Department of Agriculture, several problems relating to soils, manures, crops and plant pests and diseases are under investigation. It is not possible to state specifically the cost of each of these investigations separately as the work is being carried on by the staff in the Agricultural Department as part of its normal duties.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know the date, approximately at least, when this grant was sanctioned?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): June 1936.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether there is at present any one in the department sufficiently competent to make these investigations?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): There is the Mycologist.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether on any previous occasion an attempt was made to investigate in regard to this?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The investigation is being carried on.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): How long is it since the department has begun to tackle the problems mentioned in the answer to part (*c*) of the question?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Ever since the Mycologist was appointed.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether Government have successfully tackled any problem with reference to the agricultural advancement of the State?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No positive results have been obtained. The researches are still in progress.

Excise Sub-Office at Mannar.

138. ***MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there has been a demand for the establishment of an Excise sub-office at Mannar in Tiruvalla taluk;

(*b*) whether the public of Mannar have memorialised that an Excise sub-office at Mannar is necessary for prevention of illicit tapping, etc.;

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(*c*) whether the Excise Inspector at Tiruvalla has reported that the interests of the revenues of the department require such an office; and

(*d*) if the answer to part (*a*) or (*b*) or (*c*) is in the affirmative, the action taken by the department in the matter?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : (*a*) to (*d*) There is already an Excise Sub-Inspector at Mannar. Hence the question does not arise.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether the Sub-Inspector at Mannar has any office there where people who want to give information to him with regard to illicit tapping and conduct of shops without authority might meet him?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The Sub-Inspector has to be met in his own house.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Has he got a house at Mannar ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : He is expected to take a house there and live there.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is it accessible to people who want to report to him ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It must be, Sir.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : With reference to the answer to parts (*b*) and (*c*), may I know whether the Commissioner has received reports or memorials with regard to the necessity for an office there ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : No reports or memorials have been received. A few days ago, a petition was received purporting to be from a licensee saying that the Sub-Inspector may be given an office.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : With regard to the necessity for the same, will the Government be pleased to enquire ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It is more a matter for the departmental officers. If the Assistant Commissioner is satisfied as to the necessity for an office, he will send up a report to me. If I am also satisfied that an office building is necessary, then I would write to Government, get their sanction as well as funds for the payment of rent and then take up a building.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know from the Government whether the representation made by one of the contractors was forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner for his remark ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : No, Sir.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know the reason why ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commisssoner*) : Sir, it was more a move on the part of somebody interested in getting a rent for his building rather than the existence of any real necessity for an office building for the department.

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